



ELECTION FOCUS 2008



November 4, 2008

No. 20

* Election Day (November 4) *

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Latest News

In the days remaining until Election Day, both candidates are campaigning across the country, especially eager to win support from voters in key battleground states. Here is a summary of their recent campaign activities – November 3, 2008



[Road to the White House: Barack Obama](#)

[Road to the White House: John McCain](#)

Left: Barack Obama speaks at a rally at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque on October 25.



Right: John McCain greets supporters in Hershey, Pennsylvania, October 28

[What to Expect as Americans Head to the Polls November 4 \(10-31-2008\)](#)

Election Day 2008 caps a campaign season nearly two years long

After a nearly two-year campaign, Election Day is almost here. Americans are expected to turn out in record numbers to select their president, senators, congressional representatives and thousands of local officials. For campaign workers, election officials and election observers, November 4 will be the culmination of months of planning for the final day of the 2008 campaign.

[New U.S. Citizens Prepare to Vote in 2008 Election \(10-31-2008\)](#)

First-time voters ready for an Election Day they believe will be historic

David Vanca, a native of the Czech Republic, has plenty to celebrate this year. He became a U.S. citizen on September 22 and will be voting for the first time on November 4 in a historic presidential election. More than 600,000 people are receiving their U.S. citizenship in 2008, many in time to cast their ballots for Republican John McCain and his running mate, Sarah Palin, or Democrat Barack Obama and his running mate, Joe Biden.

[U.S. Election Day a Celebration of Political Activism \(10-31-2008\)](#)

Volunteers, partisan and nonpartisan, keep the wheels of democracy turning

Bright balloons bob above a sea of rainbow-colored signs as loudspeakers blare music and announcements, and people in hats and shirts emblazoned with slogans hand out fliers, stickers and buttons. Election Day in the United States often arrives dressed as a carnival, ready to attract attention and excite voter interest. The day begins early. On November 4, in villages, towns and cities across the United States, thousands of volunteers will rise before dawn to lend a hand for the U.S. elections. Some will line up outside campaign headquarters, eager to pick up the flyers, pamphlets and signs they will distribute at polling places in the hope of still influencing voters' decisions.

[Pollster, Pundit, Political Scientist to Brief on Elections 2008 \(10-31-2008\)](#)

Webcast of November 3 Foreign Press Center appearance by Allan Lichtman

Many analysts offer their views on the political process in the United States, but few are as qualified to discuss and explain it as Allan Lichtman. On November 3, at 1 p.m. EST (18:00 GMT), join us for a live webcast as Professor Lichtman briefs journalists at the Foreign Press Center in Washington.

Daily updated information is available at a special **U.S. Elections** page at:
<http://usplitics.america.gov/uspoltics/elections/>

Blogs at America.gov **CAMPAIGN TRAIL TALK**



<http://blogs.america.gov/campaign/>

Provides running commentary and information on the 2008 elections in the United States. This blog keeps readers up to date on news, rumors and political chatter surrounding thousands of political races. Readers may ask questions about the electoral process, post their comments about the candidates, and generally guide the discussion.

Michelle Austein keeps you up to date on the candidates, issues and quirky happenings in the 2008 campaign, the third national election cycle she's covered. [Full Biography](#)

From the blog:

[Join the Election Day excitement!](#)

Americans and international audiences alike are excited for Election Day, and most U.S. voters expect Election Day to be a day they will remember for a long, long time. Wondering when we'll have a winner? This article will tell you [What to Expect on Election Day](#). You also might want to know more about how the [U.S. Media "calls" the Election](#). Want to be a part of the Election Night excitement? Join *America.gov's* "Election Night Live!" [Webchat](#). Campaign Trail Talk's author will be one of many political experts joining in on the discussion, beginning at 3 p.m. EST (2000 GMT) November 4 and continuing into the morning of November 5. Also beginning at 3 p.m. EST *America.gov* will [webcast](#) some of Washington's top political experts as they review the latest election-related events.

[Fair elections versus free speech: The winner is ... ?](#) — 31 October 2008

[Barack Obama airs 30-minute "infomercial"](#) — 30 October 2008

[Astronauts vote from space](#) — 29 October 200

POLLS

On Election Day, final polls of "likely voters" continue to forecast a comfortable victory for Barack Obama in the presidential race.

The [Rasmussen Reports](#) daily presidential tracking poll for November 3 shows Obama leading McCain **52%-46%**, up from a 51%-46% lead the day before.

The [IBD](#) /TIPP daily presidential tracking poll of 981 likely voters taken November 1-3 shows Obama leading McCain **48%-42%**. TIPP estimates that the final result of the election, after the allocation of the undecided voters, will be 51.5% for Obama and 44.3% for McCain.

The [Battleground](#) tracking poll of 800 likely voters taken October 29-November 2 shows Obama leading McCain **50%-44%**.

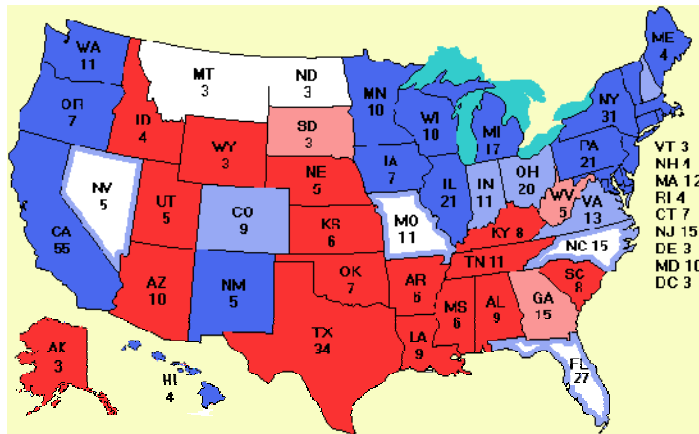
A [Fox News](#) /Opinion Dynamics poll of 971 likely voters taken November 1-2 shows Obama leading McCain **50%-43%**. Commenting on the poll, [Fox News' Special Report](#) reported, "Obama has gained on key issues nationally." He "has enlarged his lead on the economy and healthcare; while holding it on taxes. McCain, on the other hand, has lost ground on Iraq and terrorism."

A Marist University poll of 804 likely voters taken November 3 shows Obama leading McCain **52%-43%**.

The [ABC News](#) /Washington Post daily presidential tracking poll of 2,470 likely voters taken October 30-November 2 shows Obama leading McCain **53%-44%**.

The C-Span/[Zogby](#) daily presidential tracking poll of 1,205 likely voters taken November 1-3 shows Obama leading McCain **54%-43%**.

VOTE PREDICTOR



- Strong Dem (238)
- Weak Dem (40)
- Barely Dem (75)
- Exactly tied (11)
- Barely GOP (42)
- Weak GOP (9)
- Strong GOP (123)

270 Electoral votes needed to win

[Map algorithm explained](#)

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Today (November 4, 2008)
Obama 353 McCain 174 Ties 11

This day in 2004 (November 4, 2004)
Kerry 252 Bush 279

CAMPAIGN 2008



Voting:

Voter Turnout

United States Election Project, George Mason University

2008 Early Voting Statistics

Dr. Michael McDonald, United States Election Project, George Mason University, Nov. 2, 2008

...Tens of millions of people have already cast their ballot for the 2008 presidential election. By early vote, I mean any vote cast prior to Election Day, be it by absentee ballot or in-person at a central election administration office or special satellite polling location.

Voting Experts Say High Turnout May Add to Problems at the Polls

By IAN URBINA, New York Times, Published: November 2, 2008

Millions of voters will encounter an unfamiliar low-tech landscape at the polls on Tuesday. About half of all voters will vote in a way that is different from what they did in the last presidential election, and most will use paper ballots rather than the touch-screen machines that have caused concern among voting experts. But the change does not guarantee a smooth election day, as the nation's voting system remains untested for what is expected to be an unprecedented turnout. Six years after the largest federal overhaul in how elections are run, voting experts are still predicting machine and ballot shortages in several swing states and late tallies on election night.

Planning your election watch schedule?

2008 Poll Closing Times

David Leip's Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections

<http://www.uselectionatlas.org/INFORMATION/ARTICLES/ElectionNight2008/pe2008elecnighttime.php>

Beware of Exit Polls

Rasmussen Reports, Sunday, November 02, 2008

...Democrats still ache over Election Day 2004 when exit polling showed John Kerry about to become the next president of the United States.... And that came just four years after the disastrous exit polling in 2000, when the race on Election Night was called first for Al Gore, then for Bush and then at 4 a.m. was declared "too close to call." Many voters wonder why they can't ever seem to get it right? ... The bottom line is that in every state we polled--Colorado, Florida, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio and Virginia-- Democrats are a lot more eager to take exit polls than Republicans.

ARTICLE ALERT

Last words on the candidates:

The Change We Need - By BARACK OBAMA, Wall St Journal, November 3, 2008

Highlight: I'm proud to have the support of businessmen like Warren Buffett.... This is a defining moment in our history. We face the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression -- 760,000 workers have lost their jobs this year. Businesses and families can't get credit. Home values are falling, and pensions are disappearing. Wages are lower than they've been in a decade, at a time when the costs of health care and college have never been higher....

What We're Fighting For - By JOHN MCCAIN, Wall St Journal, November 3, 2008

Highlight: Protectionism and tax hikes are wrong for the economy....The presidential election occurs at a pivotal moment. Our nation is fighting two wars abroad, suffers from the greatest global financial crisis since the Great Depression, and is facing a painful recession. I believe in the greatness of America. I believe in our capacity to prosper, and to be safer and remain a beacon of light on the global stage. But we cannot spend the next four years as we have spent much of the last eight: waiting for our luck to change. We have to act immediately. We have to fight for it....

Even Keel for Obama in Final Turn to Election - By JEFF ZELENY, New York Times, November 2, 2008

... Whatever emotions or anxiety Mr. Obama feels as his candidacy draws to a close, he displays little of it, either in public appearances or private conversations with his close advisers. The air of confidence he exudes, which some critics take as arrogance, grew in part out of the primary, when he worked to avoid perceptions that he was weak or not ready. But now, he is described by friends as feeling as though he has been thoroughly tested and is prepared to take on the job he has spent 22 months fighting for. Still, it is hard for even those closest to Mr. Obama to fathom what these days are precisely like, even for the unflappable — often inscrutable — senator from Illinois....

For McCain, Lighter End After Years on the Trail - By ELISABETH BUMILLER, New York Times, November 2, 2008

... But in the frantic last days of his nearly two-year second quest for the presidency, Mr. McCain has liberated himself from the irritable, edgy candidate of a month ago. He has, by all appearances, decided he will get to Tuesday by having a good time. His aides say he is relieved that the race is almost over and for the most part out of his hands. He is also buoyed — and obsessed, his staff says — with polls that show the race tightening in some battleground states and allow him hope that he might still have a shot....

2008 Electopedia - New York Magazine

For a bit of fun: a guide to (almost) everything there is to know about presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama, from the important issues (Best Speech) to the really important issues (Hairstyle;-)....

Plus - [Google News](#) as well as [Yahoo News](#) on **Elections** updated continuously

This weekly service provides selected coverage of the 2008 US elections. Please note that these articles are for informational purposes only, and should not be construed as an endorsement of the views contained therein.

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